

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

March 22, 2006

7:07 p.m.

ATTENDING

Gloria A. Aparicio
Patricia E. Cornish (by telephone)
Holly Fechner
Deborah L. Horan
Anne S. Kasper
Resa Levy
Fauzia R. Najm
Regina L. Oldak
Tedi S. Osias
Shelia Parker
Gary P. Smith
Yun Jung Yang

STAFF

Paula S. Rodgers
Tracy Stuger
Judith Vaughan-Prather
Shirley Thomas, Intern

ABSENT

Shirley Johnson
Elizabeth Keyes
Martha Nguyen

GUEST

Jeannette Feldner, President, Montgomery County NOW

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....Horan

President Horan called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Discussion of a letter regarding the Maryland Women's Heritage Center was added to "New Business." Upon the motion made by Commissioner Oldak, duly seconded by Commissioner Kasper and unanimously passed, the agenda was approved with the addition.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Smith, duly seconded by Commissioner Najm and unanimously passed, the Minutes of February 22, 2006 were approved as submitted.

INTRODUCTIONS

Shirley Thomas was introduced to the commissioners. She is a first year graduate student at Howard University's School of Social Work. Ms. Thomas will provide staff support to the Executive Director on various projects including NACW, through April.

Jeannette Feldner, President of Montgomery County NOW, was also introduced. She attended the CFW meeting in order to observe its operations.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....Horan

A. Fairfax County Event

The Fairfax County CFW invited MCCFW to participate in a networking and lecture opportunity with fellow commissioners from a variety of local jurisdictions. President Horan and Commissioner Aparicio will plan to attend the April 12 event.

B. April Executive Committee Meeting Date

The April 12 Executive Committee meeting has been moved up to April 5 in observance of the Passover Holiday. The Policy and Legislation Committee will meet on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. **[Editor's Note: The April 19 PAL Committee has been cancelled. Committee will reconvene on May 10 at 5:30 pm]**

C. New Commissioner Recruitment

The terms of five commissioners will expire this June and three are eligible for reappointment. Of the commissioners with expiring terms, Commissioners Johnson and Smith are ineligible to apply for reappointment. Commissioners Fechner, Levy and Osias have indicated their intent to reapply. They were also told that they must submit a letter to the County Executive indicating their intent to reapply. Recruitment for the two vacancies (one endorsed and one independent position) has begun and the closing date to apply is April 24. The selection committee will include Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, President Horan and Commissioners Cornish, Oldak, and Yang.

D. Maryland Women's Roundtable

President Horan represented MCCFW at the Maryland Women's Roundtable. The networking event turned out to be part of a strategic plan development process for the Maryland CFW. The Maryland CFW has since issued a report and President Horan circulated it among the commissioners.

E. President's Advisory Council Meeting

The next President's Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled on May 17 at 6 p.m. at Tony Lin's Restaurant in Rockville, Maryland. The Executive Committee was hoping to have Judge Marielsa Bernard as the guest speaker; however, she is not available.

F. Meetings with County Council Members

The CFW Executive Committee has been meeting with individual members of the County Council in advance of the discussions on the CFW's budget. To date, meetings have already been held with Councilmembers Perez and Leventhal. The Executive Committee will meet with Councilmember Silverman on March 23 and will schedule meetings with Councilmember Praisner and the others in the month of April.

During the meeting with Councilmember Perez, the issue of the predatory lending legislation was discussed. A state judge issued a temporary injunction to halt the County's predatory lending legislation. Commissioner Fechner will contact Commissioner Johnson, and in conjunction with Commissioner Johnson, will examine the issue and report back with a recommendation to the Executive Committee by April 5.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Sexual Harassment

The CFW's letter on sexual harassment was published in at least one issue of the Gazette on March 8.

B. Human Rights Hall of Fame

On March 19, the Office of Human Rights inducted 12 distinguished Montgomery County residents, including CFW's nominee Emily Edmonson, into the 2006 Human Rights Hall of Fame. Commissioner Parker and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended the event and said that it was a lovely ceremony. Several of Emily Edmonson's descendants attended the event.

C. BPW Women's History Event

Commissioner Cornish was unable to attend the event; however a representative for her conducted a presentation on pay equity. About 88 persons attended overall, including 30 girls. CFW was recognized as a co-sponsor.

D. Women's Heritage Center

CFW sent out action alerts and a letter in support of funding for the Women's Heritage Center.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

V. STAFF REPORT

A. New CFW Intern

Introduced earlier, Shirley Thomas was welcomed to the CFW meeting. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather said that Ms. Thomas will be interning at CFW for the rest of this semester and possibly next school year as well. Ms. Thomas will be assisting the Executive Director with the National Association of Commissions for Women responsibilities, working at the CFW office 16 hours per week.

B. Girls Computer Camp

The County Executive is recommending \$12,000 for scholarships in CFW's FY 07 budget. The fees for the computer camps have increased to \$475, and the college is offering the CFW a \$25 per student discount, so each scholarship will cost \$450. That level of funding will provide 26 scholarships.

C. Annual Report

Copies of the final report were mailed with the CFW meeting packet. The report includes changes requested by Commissioner Johnson.

D. Women's Law Day

The CFW Counseling and Career Center in partnership with the Montgomery County Women's Bar Association is presenting Women's Law Day on May 18, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the CFW office. This event will provide attendees with an opportunity to attend workshops on a variety of legal issues and get a 20 minute personal legal consultation.

E. Professional Training Workshop

The CFW Counseling and Career Center is holding a *workshop "Helping Women from Other Cultures: Keys to Communication and Understanding"* on April 28, 2006. This program is for community service providers and front-line workers. Registration is required.

F. NACW Board Meeting

The NACW Board of Directors is meeting at CFW's offices March 27-29. The meeting includes a presentation given by representatives from Proctor & Gamble on osteoporosis. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather reported that NACW memberships are now up to 67 and several commissioners from the state of

Maryland have signed on as affiliate members. Staff is currently identifying how many CFWs are in each state.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL).....Kasper

An updated legislative tracking chart was distributed to commissioners.

- Emergency Contraception (SB 297) was voted out of committee. President Horan noted that Commissioners Oldak and Kasper have been working tirelessly on this issue. President Horan testified on behalf of CFW at a hearing that was held on March 17.
- A rally in support of Emergency Contraception will take place on March 27 at 6 p.m. on Lawyers Mall in Annapolis. Guest speakers including Kim Gandy (National NOW) and Dr. Susan Wood have been lined up.
- Trafficking (SB 630) - written testimony was prepared and presented by Commissioner Fechner on March 9.
- Breast Reconstruction – A letter in support of funding for breast reconstruction for breast cancer patients was sent by CFW. Commissioner Kasper noted that one of her patients is a 33 year old, unmarried immigrant, who lost both breasts to cancer and now may be able to look forward to reconstruction surgery.
- Healthy Maryland Initiative (Clean Indoor Air Act) – This legislation has been sent to summer study.
- Health Care for All – died in committee.
- Sexual Abuse – written testimony was sent to the Senate and oral testimony was presented in the House.

B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWin)Yang

The IWin Committee met on March 15 at Commissioner Najm's house and worked on the following:

- IWORK brochures – translations in all four languages is now complete; however, there were problems with the printers that required extra proofing and corrections. The brochures should be ready to roll out in May. The press conference originally scheduled for March 8 was cancelled after consultation with the County's Office of Public Information that recommended that a media outreach campaign be done instead of the press conference. IWin Committee members are scheduled for at least 8 media outreach efforts.
- Chocolate, Checks and Champagne event has been rescheduled to June 11 at President Horan's house.
- Domestic Workers brochure is basically written and needs a legal review by an employment attorney. Commissioner Fechner offered to review the brochure.

Commissioner Keyes worked extremely diligently to get the brochure completed before her baby was born and she succeeded! Congratulations to Commissioner Keyes on the birth of her daughter, Beatrice Ida Hill who was born on March 9; mom, dad and baby are doing great!

- Domestic Workers Survey – On March 21, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended the Council’s Health and Human Services Committee meeting on the survey.

C. Status of Women in Montgomery County (SWIM)Cornish

The committee did not meet this month. Staff is in the data collection phase. The next meeting is April 6 at 8:30 a.m.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Women’s Fair

The Women’s Fair takes place on April 1. Sign-up sheets were provided in the meeting packets for commissioners to staff the CFW booth. The deadline for registration was extended.

B. MCPS Technology and Girls

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather has been attending the task force meetings. The committee is drafting a final report.

C. National Committee on Pay Equity

Equal Pay Day is April 25. There will be an event at the National Press Club on April 25 at 9 a.m. Commissioner Cornish developed an e-alert for NACW to send to its member commissioners with materials. Commissioner Cornish moved that CFW send an op-ed piece or a letter to the Editor of the Gazette on the issue of pay equity. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Oldak and unanimously approved. Commissioner Cornish agreed to write the op-ed.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Additional Information provided in the meeting packet)

A. The Friends of the Rockville Library is presenting a free event on March 23, by Robert Cooney, Jr., author of *Winning the Vote: A Photographic History of the American Women’s Suffrage Movement*.

B. CASA of Maryland, Inc. is commemorating International Day of the Domestic Worker on March 30 with a celebration on that day to honor those working for the rights of immigrants and the Latino community.

- C. There is an urgent need for volunteers to assist sexual assault victims and their families through the VASAP program of the County's Department of Health and Human Services. Persons interested in volunteering should call 240-777-1355.
- D. Commissioner Parker, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, announced that she had the opportunity to attend a briefing held at the United Nations on issues impacting women. Delta Sigma Theta is one of the few African American women's organizations to be credentialed by the United Nations with Non-Governmental Organization Consultative status. As an NGO, Delta Sigma Theta has the opportunity to gain access to and disseminate information concerning the range of issues on women and children in which the United Nations is involved.
- E. Commissioner Levy announced that she recently returned from Israel on a women's mission trip to help Israeli battered women.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**